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Hi-tech spy plot revealed

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James Dürward Harper Jr. once bragged, authorities said, that he had an "open invitation" to visit Poland.

Harper did travel to Poland, the FBI said, and to exotic cities in Switzerland, Austria and Mexico. On those trips he is accused of selling U.S. secrets, the keys to the backbone of the nation's defense.

Harper's globetrotting days ended Saturday with his arrest for espionage. While earning \$50,000 a year as an engineering consultant for Solelectron Corp., of San Jose, authorities said he made \$250,000 trading the secrets stolen by his wife.

Co-workers said there was nothing unusual about him. "He was always smiling," said his boss, Roy Kusumoto.

Meanwhile, the FBI was tapping his phone and watching his mail.

Authorities say they expect to make more arrests.

The 33-page affidavit presented at his arraignment in San Francisco Monday provides a rare glimpse of the rise and fall of a man accused of being a major international spy.

He is being held without bail.

According to the affidavit:

Harper, of Mountain View, Calif., began spying in 1975 when he was introduced to Polish intelligence agents by long-time friend, William Bell Huggle. Huggle was not charged.

Polish agents gave Harper a "shopping list" of high-tech defense items including plans for a tank-launched rocket. Harper got the information and was paid between \$5,000 and \$7,500.

He is accused of obtaining photocopies of defense materials through his late wife, Ruby Louise Schuler. She had a "secret" security clearance through her job as a secretary-bookkeeper at Systems Control Inc. of Palo Alto — a major defense contractor.

In 1981, a Los Angeles lawyer representing an unidentified client — later determined to be Harper, according to the affidavit — said his client would become a U.S. counter-intelligence agent in exchange for immunity. Authorities rejected the offer.